

September 13, 2024

Investor Signposts: Week beginning September 15, 2024

Upcoming economic and financial market events

Australia

Wednesday September 18	◆ Speech by RBA Assistant Governor Brad Jones	<i>At the Intersekt Festival, Melbourne</i>
Thursday September 19	◆ Labour force (August)	<i>Employment may have increased by 20,000</i>
Thursday September 19	◆ Population growth (March quarter)	<i>Annual population growth is 2.5%</i>

Overseas

Monday September 16	◆ US Empire State manufacturing index (September)	<i>Tipped to inch up from -4.7 to -4.0</i>
Tuesday September 17	◆ US retail sales (August)	<i>Spending could dip 0.2%</i>
Tuesday September 17	◆ US industrial production (August)	<i>Production is expected to edge up 0.1%</i>
Tuesday September 17	◆ US business inventories (July)	<i>Stocks could increase 0.4%</i>
Tuesday September 17	◆ US NAHB housing market index (September)	<i>Homebuilder sentiment could lift to 40</i>
Wednesday September 18	◆ China 1-year medium-term lending facility rate	<i>No change in the MLF is expected</i>
Wednesday September 18	◆ US Federal Reserve (FOMC) interest rate decision	<i>A 25-basis point rate cut is expected</i>
Wednesday September 18	◆ US housing starts and building permits (August)	<i>Starts could lift 5.8% with permits up 1%</i>
Thursday September 19	◆ NZ economic (GDP) growth (June quarter)	<i>A quarterly contraction of 0.3% is expected</i>
Thursday September 19	◆ Bank of England (BOE) interest rate decision	<i>No change in rates is expected</i>
Thursday September 19	◆ US current account balance (June quarter)	<i>A deficit of US\$262bn is expected</i>
Thursday September 19	◆ US Philadelphia Fed manufacturing index (Sep.)	<i>Tipped to lift from -7 to +2.9</i>
Thursday September 19	◆ US existing home sales (August)	<i>Sales could fall 1.3%</i>
Thursday September 19	◆ US Conference Board leading index (August)	<i>Expected to decline 0.3%</i>
Friday September 20	◆ Bank of Japan (BOJ) policy decision	<i>No change in rates is expected</i>
Friday September 20	◆ China 1-year and 5-year loan prime rates	<i>No change in the LPRs is expected</i>

Please note that forecasts are from Bloomberg and Refinitiv unless otherwise stated.

Aussie jobs data in focus as the US Federal Reserve, Bank of England and Bank of Japan all meet

- In Australia, the labour force survey is the stand-out event on Thursday. Commonwealth Bank (CBA) Group economists are expecting the economy to add around 20,000 jobs in August, with the unemployment rate ticking up to 4.3% from July's 4.2%. The participation rate could remain steady at an all-time high of 67.1%.
- Dr. Brad Jones, Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) Assistant Governor (Financial System), delivers a speech at the Intersekt Festival in Melbourne on Wednesday.
- In New Zealand, CBA Group (ASB) economists expect the Kiwi economy to contract by 0.3% in the June quarter, marking the fifth quarterly decline in GDP since the December quarter of 2022, when released on Thursday.
- A trifecta of major central banks hand down policy decisions in the coming week. The US Federal Reserve Open Market Committee (FOMC) is tipped to cut its key policy rates by 25 basis points on Wednesday in a nod to slowing price, economic and job growth. But no change in rates is expected from both the Bank of England (BOE) and Bank of Japan (BOJ) in finely balanced decisions on Thursday and Friday, respectively.
- On the Aussie corporate calendar, another 23 companies are scheduled to trade ex-dividend, headlined by Cochlear (Tuesday), Flight Centre (Wednesday), South32 (Thursday) and Inghams (Friday). Around \$2.4 billion of dividends are paid to investors this week. Arcadium Lithium hosts an investor day on Friday. Lake Resources (Monday), Webjet (Tuesday), Patriot Battery Metals and a2 Milk (Wednesday), and KMD Brands (Friday) all host investor meetings.

Ryan Felsman, Senior Economist

IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND DISCLAIMER FOR RETAIL CLIENTS

This content is prepared, approved and distributed in Australia by Commonwealth Securities Limited ABN 60 067 254 399 AFSL 238814 (CommSec) a wholly owned but non-guaranteed subsidiary of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia ABN 48 123 123 124 AFSL 234945 (the Bank) and a Market Participant of ASX Limited and Cboe Australia Pty Limited. All information contained herein is provided on a factual or general advice basis and is not intended to be construed as an offer, solicitation or investment recommendation in any way. It has been prepared without taking into account your individual objectives, financial situation or needs. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. CommSec, the Bank, our employees and agents may receive a commission and / or fees from transactions and / or deal on their own account in any securities referred to in this communication and may make investment decisions that are inconsistent with the recommendations or views expressed within this communication. Any comments, suggestions or views presented herein may differ from those expressed elsewhere by CommSec and / or the Bank. The content may not be used, distributed or reproduced without prior consent and any unauthorised use of the content may breach copyright provisions. CommSec does not give any representation or warranty as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of any content including any third-party sourced data, nor does it accept liability for any errors or omissions. CommSec is not liable for any losses or damages arising out of the use of information contained in this communication. This communication is not intended to be distributed outside of Australia.